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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation
(Telephone)

DATE: July 2, 1954

SUBJECT: Venezuela and the Foreign Ministers Meeting re Guatemala

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador César González of Venezuela
Rollin S. Atwood, OSA

COPIES TO: ARA - Mr. Woodward, Mr. Pearson, Amb. Pauley
AR - Amb. Dreier, Mr. Jamison, Mr. Sanders
MID - Mr. Burrows, Mr. Leddy
ARA/P - Mr. Wieland, Mr. Herron
ARA - Mr. Holland (2)
Embassy, Guatemala
Embassy, Caracas.
Embassy, San José.

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I have talked twice with Amb. González this morning and between calls he was in touch with his Government. Regarding the meeting of the COAS for this afternoon, instructions have been given to Dr. Gutierrez to state that although Venezuela would like to have the meeting held as scheduled, they will be glad to join the majority and vote for suspension sine die with a statement to the effect that should the situation warrant the meeting, this would be called on 24-hour or 48-hou notice.

The Ambassador stated that with regard to the other problem discussed with Mr. Holland last evening, i.e. arms shipment to Costa Rica and the general Venezuela-Costa Rica problem, he, the Ambassador, had tried to explain the absolutely correct attitude of the U.S. and the desire of the U.S. to try and bring about the same conditions that Venezuela would like to bring about--normal relations between the two countries. Amb. González stated that his President and Mr. Estrada appeared considerably upset. He said that although the presence of Betancourt in Costa Rica was the major problem, it wasn't the only one. He said that the President was still upset about the actions and statements made by Costa Rica in connection with the meeting of the Tenth Inter-American Conference, as well as some other things which he didn't mention.

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I repeated some of the things that were said at the meeting last night with Mr. Holland and reiterated that it was my opinion that we would not be able to solve the problems by continually criticising and attacking Costa Rica. I intimated that when and if the present situation in Central America became more normalized, perhaps certain things could be done which would help to improve the relations between Venezuela and Costa Rica. I reminded him that after all I was sure that both the U.S. and Venezuela were primarily interested in solving the problems and not aggravating them. Amb. González agreed wholeheartedly and said that he was going to try and talk to his President again today and would call me again if he succeeded. He said that everything was upset down there today because of the arrival of the Haitian officials.

ARA:OSA: RSAtwood:jn